



**Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland**

*“The nursery has come
a long way since it was
established back in 2005.*

*We have greatly
appreciated the support,
assistance and guidance
provided by the Nursery
& Garden Industry
Queensland’s support
network”.*

De’Arne Veal 29.01.2015



Wild Valley Propagation Building to Best Management Practice (BMP)

Wild Valley Propagation is a family business owned and operated by Paul and De’Arne Veal. The nursery is located in the beautiful Tallebudgera Valley in the Gold Coast Hinterland where the Gibsonville Street site embraces both the nursery operation and the family residence. Wild Valley Propagation specialises in contract growing, producing a range of quality, sun hardened ornamentals, ground covers and grasses for production nurseries, landscapers and retail nurseries across the Eastern States of Australia. Wild Valley Propagation’s business objective is to produce and supply to each and every customer, a consistent quality product, on-time, and ready for immediate planting. Business expansion plans have been developed to ensure the nursery can meet the growing demands of their many customers. In January of 2015 De’Arne Veal said: “Paul and I are very excited that our expansion plans for Wild Valley Propagation are well underway. This investment in the nursery will allow the business to increase production of our quality tubestock to our loyal customers across Australia”. The current expansion is planned to be completed and fully operational by the middle of 2015.



**RURAL
WATER USE
EFFICIENCY**

**IRRIGATION
FUTURES**

Improving irrigation management
for a profitable and sustainable future



Rural Water Use Efficiency—Irrigation Futures (RWUE-IF)

Wild Valley Propagation Building to Best Management Practice



New Despatch facility

“Technical officer assistance and industry programs NIASA & EcoHort have provided valuable guidance with all our upgrades and expansion planning”

Paul Veal 10.03.2015

Wild Valley Propagation has continued to expand its facilities and production output since its inception in 2005. During this period the nursery and facilities have grown to approximately ten times the size of the original business. Current construction on a new and upgraded propagation mist house facility should double the current holding capacity under mist and deliver an increased output from the propagation shed of around thirty three percent. These new facilities are expected to provide a more suitable propagation environment leading to quicker turnaround of propagation material with lower throwout rates.

In the later part of 2014, the new despatch and storage shed was constructed to provide the dedicated space required for detailing and consolidating orders waiting for customer despatch. The new shed also provided upgraded chemical and growing media storage facilities that meet the requirements under the ‘Nursery Production Farm Management System’ Best Management Practice (BMP) programs. The new shed also provides improved access for transport, improved access for staff to the stock holding areas, improved hygiene with the separation of despatch away from the production processes, and generally allows more space for both production and despatch staff to operate.

The full sun and shade production holding areas have been expanded to double their size earlier in 2014. Part of the upgrade and expansion planning was to ensure all stock in these areas is located off the ground on benches to provide excellent hygiene and a suitable work height for staff managing and working in the area. The irrigation system in both these full sun and shade areas was already operating to industry BMP target parameters and was expanded as part of the upgrade.

Extensive stock gardens have been planted over the years and new areas have been developed as the nursery has grown. Wild Valley Propagation obtains almost ninety percent of its propagation material from stock gardens on the 0.8 hectare site in the Tallebudgera Valley. The stock gardens are vitally important to the nursery in maintaining its strict hygiene protocols. All external material undergoes a strict quarantine process of inspection and treatment before processing.

Wild Valley Propagation Building to Best Management Practice



*“The inverted sprinkler system
provides uniform irrigation and a
clear workspace for production”*
Paul Veal 11.02.2015



Wild Valley Propagation was one of the first businesses to participate in the RWUE-IF initiative and have an Irrigation, Drainage & Energy Management Plan (IDEMP) developed for the business. The IDEMP provides a snapshot of the current operations of the business focusing on both water and related energy use. The IDEMP also provides an action plan of activities and improvements to achieve both water use and energy efficiency. Wild Valley Propagation has already embraced many of the action plan items from the IDEMP designed to drive the business forward over the coming years. The business has carefully evaluated the irrigation water source, a 54.5 metre bore, to ensure it can meet the demands of the nursery expansion program. Two storage tanks holding twenty two thousand litres, coupled with a thirty thousand litre tank installed in 2014 is designed to reduce the required pumping flow rate from the bore and provide water security for nursery irrigation. The reduced flow requirement from the bore will in the future allow for a smaller pump delivering a substantial reduction in operating costs. Rainwater is also being harvested to support the nursery irrigation requirements. The irrigation sprinklers exceed the BMP target parameters of nursery production and were selected to provide the application efficiency required in propagation nurseries. The inverted NaanDan GreenSpin micro sprinklers apply the irrigation uniformly and allow the clear working space required in the production areas to set out tubestock trays. The propagation media has been adapted using feedback from customers, to provide a substrate that has an improved water absorption rate, a good water holding capacity, and holds together for customers at planting. A new mixing area has also been constructed to industry BMP standards allowing the propagation media to be manufactured as required while ensuring the nursery hygiene protocols can be maintained during the process. Raw materials are carefully stored in a new dedicated storage facility ensuring nursery hygiene is maintained. The nursery drainage system has been significantly upgraded to divert wastewater from irrigation and rain events into subsurface drains quickly and efficiently, removing this wastewater from the production areas. Recent installation of a solar energy generating system has reduced the energy costs, particularly with irrigation pumping.

Wild Valley Propagation Building to Best Management Practice

Wild Valley Propagation Building to Best Management Practice

Wild Valley Propagation is NIASA accredited (since 2007) and EcoHort certified (since 2007) under the Nursery Production Farm Management System. Paul and De'Arne have embraced the nursery production programs to provide support and direction to their growing business and have utilised all the technical support available. Wild Valley Propagation was also one of the first production nurseries to engage with the RWUE-IF initiative and have an IDEMP created to assist in improving their water and energy efficiency. The strength behind Wild Valley Propagation is the hard working and experienced production team. Owner De'Arne has an impressive propagation history and leads a team of five dedicated staff in ensuring customer orders are satisfied. Husband Paul has managed the construction, upgrades and expansion of the business and is currently working on a number of new stock gardens, privacy screens and windbreaks before overseeing the erection of the new propagation mist house. Wild Valley Propagation is regularly represented at the industry monthly Trade Days in Brisbane and the NGIQ Green Expo each year held on the Gold Coast.

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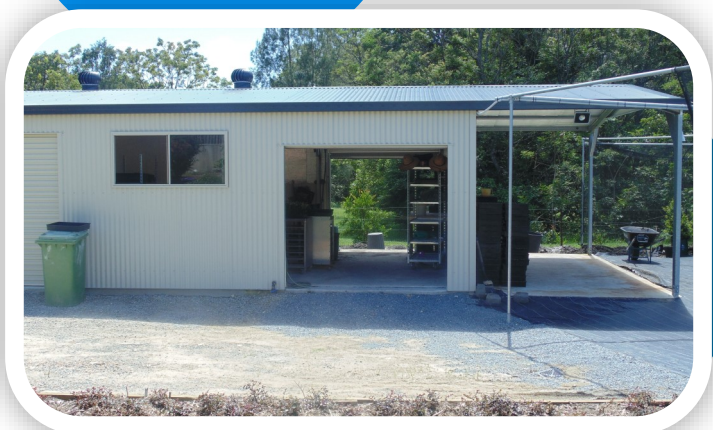


Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland



“The more efficient the irrigation system, the better the plant growth, the crop uniformity and general plant health.”

De'Arne Veal 11.03.2015



Improving irrigation management
for a profitable and sustainable future



Queensland Government

The RWUE-IF initiative helps irrigators make better use of their on-farm water supplies, through efficient irrigation system design and management. It also helps irrigators to reduce energy consumption associated with their pumping applications. RWUE-IF is a partnership between the Queensland Government and major rural industries, where the government provides financial support to assist industry groups in providing services to irrigators.

Rural Water Use Efficiency—Irrigation Futures (RWUE-IF)